

Amusements

It is not often that the patron of the theater has the opportunity to feel really pleased with a play, especially one reflecting the fruitful phases of human experience, and free from the forbidden things of the seamy side of life. Washington had the chance last week when Henry E. Dixey appeared in "Mr. Lazarus," the joint work of Harvey G. Higgins and Harriet Ford, whose efforts have always had the merit of pleasant entertainment. The authors of "Mr. Lazarus" may feel assured that those who see it will enjoy its blend of homely comedy and pathos and count their time as well spent in the recreation of laughing and applauding it.

It seems rather late in the year to be seeing a theatrical au revoir, but the



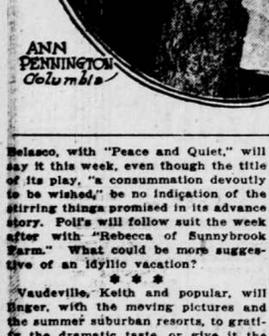
MAIDEL TURNER and GEORGE BACKUS in "Peace and Quiet" at Belasco.



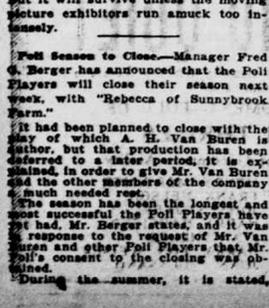
THOMAS A. WISE in "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" at Keith's.



NANON TALBERT in "The Little Lady in Blue" at Cosmos.



ANN PENNINGTON in "The Origin of Pearls" at Strand.



DOROTHY GISH in "The Origin of Pearls" at Strand.

Manager Berger will carry out some ambitious plans for the improvement of the theater.

Will Exploit Local Talent—The Drama League Players, soliciting original plays by Washington authors, to be produced in their bills during the coming theatrical season, is said to be meeting with a gratifying response. G. A. Lyon, chairman of the players, states he has received many inquiries regarding the matter, and several ambitious writers have already promised to send in manuscript plays for consideration by the play-reading committee.

While it is not a rare thing here to witness the production of plays by Washington people, there has not heretofore been so ready a market as is promised by the plans of the Drama League Players. This group has been organized for the primary purpose of

disco with less than \$100 in his pocket and an outfit for rough travel. He shipped aboard a sailing vessel bound for Panama, and on arrival there secured his discharge and \$8, his wages as a sailor, for the trip. From Panama he went to Guatemala and took train to Guatemala City. When the train was his business to find out whence he came, why he came and when he was going to leave. Their hospitality overwhelmed him. He was not allowed to move without a soldier at his side. They even accompanied him to his hotel.

"The first morning I was in Guatemala City," he says, "and when I came out I found the whole army—eighty in all—waiting up in the Plaza Nacional. The soldiers were in a nondescript-looking lot, no two uniforms were alike and each soldier had a different and original way of holding up his trousers. Some wore suspenders, some belts and some large safety pins. Some had shirts on; they were all barefooted, but each was equipped with a rifle and a long knife, unheated."

"The band (oh, yes, there was a band) was playing 'Give My Regards to Broadway.' The officers, three of them, were really fine-looking chaps and well dressed in khaki uniforms.

"I started to look the town over and walked several blocks. During this walk I noticed that every house, built low and opening right into the street, had a photograph, and they were all playing their favorite record, which seems to be 'There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight.' The only other tune I heard from the phonographs was 'Oh, Where Is My Wandering Boy Tonight?'"

"Just as I was thinking where I would be next night, a soldier with fixed bayonet stopped my progress. Without knowing it, I was nearing the president's palace. In pantomime I was informed that I would have to walk on the other side of the street. I did so, with the bayonet close to my back. The sentry at the other end of the walk came to attention and the commandant at the entrance to the 'palio' ushered me inside the gate, where I was

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Playwrights Who Were Actors—Nearly every successful American dramatist learned the stage from practical experience. David Belasco, the most famous writer and producer in the world today, was an actor in the San Francisco Stock Company and first appeared in the east in small parts. Edwin Milton Royle, author of "The Squaw Man," "Peace and Quiet," etc., was an actor and played with the world's greatest tragedian, Edwin Booth.

Winchell Smith, who wrote "The Fortune Hunter," "The Boomerang," etc., was an actor. "Tough and Tender," "Too Many Cooks," is still playing "Music Master," "The Lion and the Mouse," etc., was a Hebrew impersonator on the variety stage. George V. Hobart, who wrote "Experiences" was leading man for the famous "Lotta," George Broadhurst, author of "The Girl on the Boat," "The Girl on the Boat," etc., was a musical comedian, and George M. Cohan has written comedies, and has played with the characters he himself created.

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The last of the summer season productions to be seen at the Belasco will be "Peace and Quiet," three-act melodramatic farce by Edwin Milton Royle, which will open tomorrow evening for a week's engagement.

"Peace and Quiet" deals with the inner workings of politics and the war game as being played on the two sides of the Rio Grande. The action of the play takes place in Washington, D. C., and on the Mexican border. The play is a comedy with a serious undertone and tells the adventures of a young American soldier of fortune in his struggle for love and honor.

The play will be presented under the management of Silvio Hein, by a cast which includes Almes Dalmore, Maidel Turner, Henry Mortimer, Edwin Stoddard, George Backus, Gus C. Weinberg, Walter Walker, Edward Gillespie, John Stues, Frank H. Taylor, Hadley, Ivan Miller, Harry Von Weiser and Juan Villasantos.

Lovers of romantic comedy-drama generally will be interested in next week's production at Polli's, "The Belle of Richmond." It is one of those southern romances whose appeal is all its own. It is in four acts, and will be produced for the first time in Washington by the Polli Players. Sidney Toler, a well known actor-author, wrote the play.

The locale of the play is Richmond, Va., and the settings are illustrative of the homes of Virginia.

The story concerns Jerry Gordon and Nellie Mason, who are in love. Through a mistake in the delivery of bouquets by the family servant and the connivance of a clever stranger in Richmond, a unique dramatic situation develops.

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